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Say DOD Agency Leaves \$100M CIA CPU Net

By JACK ROBERTSON

WASHINGTON — The Defense Intelligence Agency has pulled out of Program SAFE, a \$100 million joint computer network with the Central Intelligence Agency, threatening a major redirection of the project, sources said here last week.

TRW Defense & Space Systems division is the prime contractor, using a large bank of Burroughs computers tied together with a massive secure network of remote terminals around the world.

A spokesman for DIA would only reply that the agency could make no statement.

The CIA referred all questions to TRW, and a spokeswoman for that firm said Program SAFE was continuing without change. She said any further details were classified and could not be discussed.

Sources said SAFE is a massive bank of intelligence information, which is fed in by encrypted relay from remote terminals at various

DIA and CIA offices around the world. Until recently, even the name of the program could not be disclosed.

TRW won the SAFE project several years ago in a hotly contested bid. Even though the project was highly classified, the CIA, acting as the lead agency, conducted a secret bid of several computer network systems firms and reportedly selected TRW as the low price firm.

Sources said TRW originally bid IBM large-scale computers, but after getting the contract got the CIA and DIA to agree to switch to a mix of Burroughs processors. It could not be learned which Burroughs models are planned in the system.

The reasons for the reported DIA withdrawal from SAFE were uncertain, although sources said budget problems and DIA questions about SAFE may have been a major factor.

Another "black area" secret program, the National Security Agency's Project Maroon Shield with RCA Communications division, reportedly had overcome technical

problems and is a viable project, according to sources. Maroon Shield reportedly is a global satellite relay of intelligence data, presumably intercepted electronic signals.

Sources said another NSA program, Project Silkworth, by Ford Aerospace & Communications Corp., was still having software difficulties; however, Lt. Gen. Lincoln Faurer, NSA director, asked about the report when contacted at a recent Air Force Association symposium, said "I wouldn't characterize that program as having any major trouble." He said he could not elaborate.

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